

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended.

Office Action Rejections Summary

Claims 23-30, 32, and 34 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being clearly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,959,760 of Yamada et al. (“Yamada”).

Claim 31 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamada and U.K. Patent No. GB2275787 of Pember et al. (“Pember”).

Claim 33 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamada and U.S. Patent No. 5,739,941 of Knipe (“Knipe”).

Claim 106 has been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Status of Claims

Claims 23-31, 33, 106 are pending in the application. Claims 23, 24, 25, 28, 29, 30, 33 and 106 have been amended. The amended claims are supported by the specification. No claims have been added. No new matter has been added. Claims 32 and 34 have been canceled, without prejudice. Therefore, the rejection with respect to claim 32 and 34 are now moot.

Claim 106 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of its base claim and intervening claims. Therefore, it is submitted that claim 106 is in condition for allowance. As such, the following remarks are directed to the rejected claims.

Claim Rejections

Claims 23-30 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Yamada. It is submitted that claim 23 is patentable over the cited reference. As amended claim 23 recites:

An apparatus, comprising:

a central stage;

a movable frame disposed around the central stage; and

a fixed frame disposed around the movable frame, the central stage coupled to the movable frame with a first flexure and a second flexure, the movable frame coupled to the fixed frame with a third flexure and a fourth flexure, **each of the first and second flexures comprising two or more torsion beams**, wherein the central stage and the movable frame are capable of decoupled motion.

(emphasis added)

The Office Action states:

Yamada teaches a **central stage 2 connected to a movable frame 11 by a plurality of torsion beams 14a,b** and a fixed frame 1 connected to the movable frame 11 by a plurality of torsion beams 3a,b, wherein the central stage and the movable frame are capable of decoupled motion. The central stage having first blades perpendicular to the stage and parallel to second blades 15 a,b on the moving frame 11. The moving frame inherently has a main body couple to the second flexure and an end bar couple to the first flexure with a support member inbetween. The torsion beams being collinear (non-parallel).

(Office Action, 10/13/04, p. 2)(emphasis added)

Applicants disagree with the Office Action's analysis and characterization of Yamada. Yamada discloses that its mirror 2 is connected to the intermediate supporting substrate 11 by torsion bar 14a on one side and torsion bar 14b on the other side.

(Yamada, col. 9, lines 60-64; Figure 12). As such, torsion bars 14a and 14b are different flexures with each of the different flexures composed of a single torsion beam. That is, torsion bar 14a is a flexure composed of a single torsion beam and torsion bar 14b is a flexure composed of a single torsion beam.

In contrast, claim 23 includes the limitation that a flexure comprises two or more torsion beams. In particular, claim 23 recites “each of the first and second flexures comprising two or more torsion beams.” Therefore, it is submitted that claim 23 is patentable over the Yamada.

Given that claims 24-30 depend from and include the limitations of claim 23, it is submitted that claims 24-30 are also patentable over Yamada for the reasons noted above with respect to claim 23.

Claim 31 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamada and Pember. Claim 31 depends from and includes the limitations of claim 23. It is respectfully submitted that Pember fails to cure the deficiencies noted above with respect to claim 23 and, therefore, claim 31 is patentable over the cited references.

Claim 33 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamada and Knipe. Claim 33 depends from and includes the limitations of claim 23. It is respectfully submitted that Knipe fails to cure the deficiencies noted above with respect to claim 23 and, therefore, claim 33 is patentable over the cited references.

In conclusion, applicants respectfully submit that in view of the amendments and arguments set forth herein, the applicable objections and rejections have been overcome.

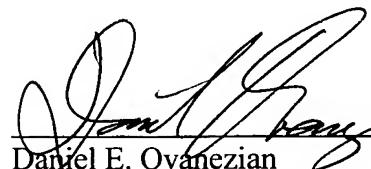
If the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Daniel Ovanezian at (408) 720-8300.

If there are any additional charges, please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: 3/14, 2005



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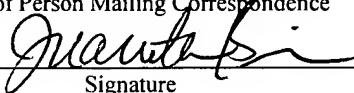
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